

The Bel Aire Breeze

Land payments worry city

Bel Aire
may have to
borrow to
make May
payment

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire has a problem. The city has to make interest payments on about 1,600 acres of undeveloped land it owns. The next payment is due in May, and the city may not have the cash.

“We’ve had some really good land sales, but never enough to make all the interest payments,” said Mayor Harold Smith said. Bel Aire pays about \$800,000 every six months. Smith said that in the long run, the community is well-

positioned for growth with changes to their bargaining program. The concern is in the short run. “The short run is the immediate challenge. ... We have to make the May 1 interest payment,” Smith said. “We will use up most of our reserve funds to

do this, and it may be necessary to borrow additional money to complete this payment.” The following interest payment is due in November, and the city budget for 2011 must be completed by Aug. 20.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Teen killed in golf cart crash

A Kechi teenager died in a golf cart crash last week in rural Butler County. Regan Wheeler, 13, student at Allison Middle School and daughter of Richard and Konnie Wheeler, died March 19 at Wesley Medical Center. The Butler County Sheriff’s Office said the girl was driving a golf cart and trying to make a turn on an embankment above a creek at Fox Lake. She lost control of the cart and became entangled in a barbed wire fence while the cart teetered on the embankment. Wheeler was stuck in the fence for up to 30 minutes before an adult resident at Fox Lake was contacted and was able to free her. Two other teenage girls were with Wheeler at the time of the wreck but were unable to get her out of the fence, the sheriff’s office said. The resident tied an extension cord between his pick-up truck and the golf cart to keep it from falling into the creek. When rescue crews arrived, Wheeler was unresponsive. She was taken by helicopter to Wesley Medical Center. The sheriff’s office said the three girls, all from the Wichita area, were on spring break and visiting friends at Fox Lake.

— The Breeze staff

Health care event set for April 16

National Healthcare Decision Day is set for April 16. The initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations to ensure that citizens have information about health care and have the opportunity to communicate and document their health care decisions. Among the objectives of The National Healthcare Decisions Day is “to improve the ability of health care facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advanced health care planning.” Kansas Health Ethics is one of the more than 700 organizations participating in the event. For more information on The National Healthcare Decisions Day, go to www.kansashealthethics.org or call the Kansas Health Ethics main office at 684-1991.

— The Breeze staff

Shredding Day April 17

The Bel Aire Lions Club, in cooperation with the Bel Aire Police Department, is sponsoring the first Bel Aire Shredding Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17 in the parking lot at the west end of City Hall at 7651 E. Central Park Ave. The event is for Bel Aire citizens only to dispose of personal documents and have them shredded to protect against identity theft and fraud. No business or commercial material will be accepted. Paper documents can be dropped into one of the 95-gallon carts that will be provided.

— The Breeze staff

A melting pot at Sunrise



Courtesy photos

Sunrise Christian Academy coach Kyle Lindsted addresses his team during a timeout in the 2009-10 season. The school earned another championship banner by winning the tri-state tournament. The team was comprised of several international players, as well as local talent.

Basketball team thrives with diversity

By Matt Heilman

In Bel Aire, a melting pot of talent guided a traditionally strong boys’ basketball team at Sunrise Christian Academy to what was perhaps the best season yet this past winter. Players from Europe, Africa and the Bahamas combined with local teammates to capture the school’s third consecutive tri-state championship. The tri-state tournament consists of private schools in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Sunrise isn’t part of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, so it doesn’t compete for a traditional state title. However, the school

is recognized by the KSHSAA. While being separate from the KSHSAA keeps some of Sunrise’s accomplishments from making headlines, the Buffaloes do have the luxury of traveling to tournaments in other parts of the country during basketball season. This winter, Sunrise was able to get an early test by participating in a tournament in Florida. Eight international players suited up for the school, including Division I recruits Raphael Akpejori of Nigeria and Leon Cooper of the Bahamas. “We’ve had quite a few (international players) over the years, but this is probably the most we’ve ever had,” Sunrise coach Kyle Lindsted said. “We’re getting kind of a higher

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Sunrise Academy basketball standout Raphael Akpejori throws down a dunk during a game this year. Akpejori, a Nigerian native, spent two years at Sunrise.

Area cities push progress

Planning ahead is key during economic downturn, officials say

By Matt Heilman

With a down economy, certain community improvement projects are often put on the backburner with the more immediate concern of balancing the budget on the

minds of most city council members. It’s not easy to convince a council to approve infrastructure repairs when it’s difficult to find a funding source. Raising the mill levy is never a popular option. Despite the tough times, communities in northern Sedgewick County are seeking ways to keep moving forward. In Bel Aire, City Administrator Ty Lasher said that keeping up with infrastructure is difficult, but

it’s not the only challenge in the community. “We’ve got several unique issues that we’re dealing with, both good and bad,” Lasher said. “On the negative side, there is the fact that we own roughly 1,600 acres of land that we’re responsible for debt service payments on. That’s a huge strain on our budget every year.” When the land purchases began, the idea was that the profit made on the land would make the payments. However, development hasn’t gone

as well as the city had hoped. “Due to the economy, the way it’s gone downhill, land sales are down and values are down,” Lasher said. “We’ve been fortunate in some sales recently, but the profits haven’t been there like we’d hoped, so we’re struggling to make interest payments.” The next payment of \$800,000 is due May 1. “Obviously, we’ve got to make

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Mayor's corner

By Harold Smith

Serious financial concern

I need to give you my view on a serious financial concern we have in the city. We are having a very difficult time making the interest payments on our land debt. In the last three years I have spent most of my time gathering information on this problem, finding all the issues connected to this problem and finding all the options we have to solve this problem.

We have had some really good land sales but never enough to make all the interest payments. We have made some important changes in our marketing program that will help sell the land. In the long run, we are now well positioned for growth, especially when the national economy improves. However, as many unhappy businessmen can tell us, you don't have a long run until you get through your short run.

The short run is the immediate challenge to make the May 1 interest payment. We will use up most of our reserve funds to do this and it may be necessary to borrow additional money to complete this payment. Another interest payment will be due in November and the 2011 budget must be finished by Aug. 20. If we get past the May 1 payment, we will have until Aug. 20 to decide what our solution will be for this cash-flow problem.

We have identified many options and we continue to study each one. Each option has the ability to affect the amount of our real estate tax, the level of city services, the ability of the city to grow and even the amount of our water bills. The next five months will be a difficult time for all of us and some hard decisions will need to be made.

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Deadline for the May Breeze: Friday, April 23

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Census count is ripe for ID scams

In conjunction with National Consumer Protection Week, which is March 8 through 13, the Bel Aire Police Department would like to relay information regarding the 2010 Census as well as the potential for identity theft.

In March, the U.S. Census Bureau began sending questionnaires to households within the United States and Puerto Rico in an effort to collect im-

portant demographic data. As a citizen, you are required by law to respond to the 10 short questions. From April to July, those who have not completed their questionnaire will receive a visit at their home address from a census taker.

Criminals involved in identity theft have recognized an opportunity by taking advantage of the census law and targeting unsuspecting victims



From the police chief

By John Daily

in an effort obtain personal information, such as Social Security numbers and/or credit

card information. Criminals may use phony e-mails or impersonate census collectors in their efforts.

There are distinctive differences between actual census collectors and those posing as census workers.

U.S. Census Bureau workers will have identification, a handheld device and a confidentiality notice. However, these things can be easily fabricated,

so it is important to know what census workers will not do:

- They will not ask for your Social Security number or financial information.
- They will not ask you for money or say that you owe money.
- They will not harass or intimidate you.
- They will not contact you by e-mail — only by phone, by mail or in person.

Planning

Continued from Page 1

some long-term strategy changes in our finances, because we don't know how long this recession's going to hang on," Lasher said.

Despite the struggle, progress is being made in Bel Aire. The city sold 80 acres in the new Tierra Verde development, and 140 acres to USD 259 for the construction of two new schools.

The high school and K-8 school are expected to open in the fall of 2012 with architects and engineers moving "full speed ahead."

Infrastructure projects are lined up for the schools with USD 259 and Sedgwick County chipping in. There are also two new builders for homes in the Central Park development.

Additional road repairs are likely to become higher priorities as the area sees more traffic.

Lasher said Bel Aire has been active through WAMPO this year.

"We've put in basically all of our ulterior streets into (Transportation Improvement Plan) and we're fortunate that they all received approval to be done somewhere over (a) 25-year period," he said.

Valley Center

Valley Center depends on a Capital Improvement Plan to keep progressing with a tight budget. Valley Center City Administrator Joel Pile called the plan "very effective" for the city.

He said the plan aims to allocate dollars based on need and time frame of certain projects as part of a 10-year plan.

"So we, every year now are budgeting money into our annual budget to do various capital improvements," Pile said. "And so, we kind of take them one little bite at a time. The need far exceeds the resources that are available, but it at least allows us to take on a few projects every year."

An upcoming project in the Capital Improvement Plan that is in the final planning stages is reconstruction work on the bridge between Broadway and Seneca on 77th North (Ford Street). The \$798,604.65 project is being paid for with federal stimulus dollars.

He said the bridge project would be part of the Capital Improvement Plan, even if grant money weren't available.

"We begin with the phi-

losophy of if we get a grant, that's great. If not, we have to make our own plans to be self-sufficient, as much as possible, and use the resources that we know we have available to make the improvements that we need," Pile said.

With funding provided for the bridge project, the city can turn its focus to the next infrastructure need. Congress recently passed a jobs bill with \$20 billion approved for roads and bridges. The bill is essentially a second round of federal stimulus money.

With the new bill in mind, Valley Center moved to initiate plans for a mill and overlay project on Meridian. The goal is to get an early start and have a grant application ready to be submitted.

The mill and overlay would extend three miles south on Meridian, starting north of the new high school at 93rd North. Pile said the project would cost about \$1.9 million and would be a joint venture with Sedgwick County since part of the work would be north of the city limits.

"We've sent our request for funds through the Kansas Department of Transportation and we're working with WAMPO to get this project included in the (Transportation Improvement Plan)," Pile said.

Another issue that Pile hopes to address is the lack of drainage in Valley Center after a heavy rain.

Overall, Pile said the city has been able to keep up with maintenance, at least for now.

He said that Kansas's legislators are likely to cut the special highway and street fund, which distributes money to cities for roadwork. About half of Valley Center's street budget comes from the fund.

Park City

Park City uses a Capital Improvement Program to plan ahead for projects, said City Administrator Jack Whitson.

Still, finding funds is always an issue.

Whitson said that grant money is difficult to come by as revenue streams dry up.

Even the most-well planned project can be turned down if the funding source doesn't see the work as a top priority.

"It's great to know that you want to do all these projects, but you've gotta figure out some way to fund them," he said.

In northern Sedgwick County, the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) divvies out federal stimulus money. The organi-

zation passed along stimulus funds to Park City to complete the \$1,277,390 Broadway Bridge reconstruction project.

Although the project is required by FEMA, Whitson said he doesn't see how it would be completed if the city was denied federal dollars.

"If the stimulus money wasn't there, I don't care if the bridgework was required or not, we just wouldn't have had the money to do it," Whitson said.

Whitson said the council would rather "have their teeth pulled out" than raise taxes.

He said that 30 percent of Park City's revenues come from property taxes, with 48 percent coming from the sales tax and franchise tax.

The 48 percent sales and franchise tax revenue takes a hit when citizens cut back on utilities or disconnect services.

"Also, when people start losing their jobs, they don't necessarily pay all their taxes either," Whitson said. "We catch it with this big revenue shortfall, and so we have to do the best that we can to economize and be as efficient as we can just to make ends meet and still provide services that the public wants."

One source of revenue that has helped Park City keep its head above water is the \$6.1 million awarded to the community through the MtBE lawsuit against several chemical and oil companies. MtBE is a potentially harmful chemical that is meant to help cars run more efficiently as an additive to gasoline.

There were gas leaks at a couple of stations near Park City, with a threat of MtBE getting into groundwater.

Whitson said MtBE money helped the city pay their \$2 million share of a \$4 million sewer plant upgrade. Also, MtBE money could lessen the blow of increased water rates in Park City.

He said that there is about \$2 million left in MtBE money, which is nothing more than a temporary solution. The funds were not available to use on the Broadway Bridge project.

Whitson said he expected a \$165,000 budget shortage for

this year. The council initially recommended covering the shortfall with MtBE money, but Whitson was able to carryover \$160,000 with cuts. This saved some MtBE money and kept Park City from having to increase property taxes by 3 mills.

While Park City has been able to get to work on a few projects, Whitson said the city continues to operate on a shoe-string budget.

Kechi

For the city of Kechi, the formation of a steering committee is a first step to see community goals on paper translated to action.

Kechi City Administrator Mark Tallman said the committee aims to prioritize projects and get them drawn up and ready to get off the ground.

Tallman said the hope is that there will be federal stimulus money available for a future project, but he said strategic planning is "far removed" from immediate stimulus funds.

He gave a few examples of projects that need done. Specific questions with most projects are yet to be answered.

"We know we need to upgrade our waterlines, when do we do it, how do we do it and how are we going to fund it? That's what the strategic plan will answer," Tallman said. "Meanwhile, there are some immediate needs we have that we can have drawn up, ready for stimulus monies again, should they arise."

At the March 11 council meeting, the conversation regarding immediate plans to be drawn up was initiated.

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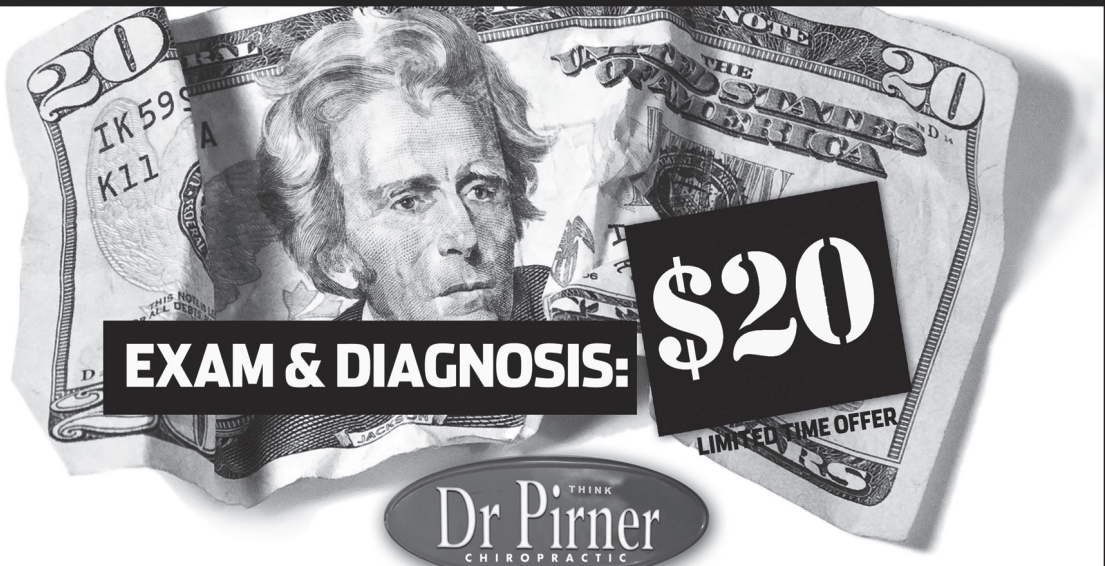
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City of Bel Aire



NOTES FROM CITY HALL

Water Rate Increase

On Feb. 2, the City Council adopted a base rate increase of \$8 for residential customers and \$14 for commercial customers, effective on bills that were due on March 10. The rate increase was required to cover expenses and debit service, as well as to comply with bond indentures.

For more information, go to www.belaireks.gov.

Budget discussions

The City Council will

continue its discussion of the 2010 budget through the month of April. More information can be found on the Bel Aire Web site (www.belaireks.gov).

Budget discussions have been ongoing since last fall.

Regular City Council meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 6 and April 20, in the Council chamber.

City Council workshops will be scheduled throughout April as needed. Agenda and updated information are available on the Web site at

www.belaireks.gov. Current meetings are broadcast live on Cable Channel 7 and rebroadcast daily at 9 a.m., noon, 5 p.m. and 10.

Pay city bills with credit card

All fees and utility bills can now be paid with a credit cards Customers will pay a 2.5 percent (minimum \$1.50 fee) transaction charge per transaction. Utility bills can be paid online by following the secure link at www.belaireks.gov.

CITY OF BEL AIRE UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 6 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 7 Chamber of Commerce, noon
- 7 Municipal Court, 7 p.m.
- 8 Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- 13 Water Board, 2:30 p.m.
- 14 Bel Aire Lions Club, noon
- 17 Shredder Day (sponsored by Lions Club) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 19 Tree Board, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 22 Municipal Court, 2:30 p.m.
- 27 Economic Development Board, 7 p.m.
- 28 Bel Aire Lions Club, noon

Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaireks.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

Folger's Gymnastics

Classes for boys and girls ages 3 and up are being held on Tuesday evenings. Call Folger's Gymnastics at 733-7525 for more information and to register.

Dazzling Dancers

Classes begin April 1. Registration is open until full. Call the rec center for availability.

Blastball (coed)

Introductory T-ball program for 4-year-olds. Registration deadline for residents is April 2. Others may sign up April 3 as space allows.

Summer ball leagues

Teams play up to two games per week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings or Saturdays beginning June 1. Practices begin the week of May 17. Registration deadline for residents is April 16. Others may sign up April 17 as space allows.

Pitch, Hit and Run

Baseball skills competition for boys and girls that encourages participation and emphasizes the FUN element of baseball. Compete in three important aspects of baseball: pitching, hitting and running. Registration deadline is April 17.

Motor Madness

Children are given the chance to touch, feel and climb in and out of a variety of vehicles. You may find dump truck, tractors, racecars, police cars and an array of other vehicles. If you or someone you know has a unique vehicle you would like to show the kids, let us know at 744-2700. Motor Madness will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17.

Taekwondo

Taking registration for ages 5 & up. Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays or from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. For beginners to

black belts.

Tai-chi

A great activity for adults of all ages. Meets at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of the month.

Yoga

Classes held at 6:10 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Fitness center (16 & up)

A yearly membership costs less than what you would pay in one month at other facilities. Includes elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine and free weights.

Summer Day Camp

The Wichita YMCA will again offer a state-licensed day camp at the Center. Activities include arts and crafts, games, sports, swimming, field trips and much more. For more information or to register call the YMCA at 264-1610.

Get to know your Bel Aire parks

In conjunction with the release of the Bel Aire Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the City will be profiling all the parks in Bel Aire.

Size: 1.5 acre

Type: Recreational Park

Location: Pearson's Addition, near Woodlawn

Amenities: Bel Aire Park has a small playground area that includes a dolphin sculpture, (2) spring rider toys, and a swing set. It also has a tennis court and basketball court. Recent renovations added a brand new shelter and irrigation system.

Future Plans: Large area north of the park is available for more amenities.



Bel Aire Senior Center

All events are held at the Bel Aire Senior Center, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., unless otherwise noted and are for ALL SENIORS living in or near Bel Aire.

The center has library books to check out, places to study or do research and computers for use. Phone 744-2451, extension 121. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

(Excluding holidays, special events or senior-related meetings)

For more information about the center and its activities, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov.

BEL AIRE SENIOR LIBRARY IS OPEN TO ALL BEL AIRE RESIDENTS 8 AM TO 5 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sr. Walking | Every weekday, 8 to 9 a.m., Bel Aire Rec Center |
| Yoga | Every Monday, 6:10 p.m., Bel Aire Rec Center |
| Bridge | Every Tuesday, 1 p.m. |
| Aerobics | Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. |
| Sr. Breakfast | Every Friday, 9 a.m. at Braum's, 3641 N. Rock Road, with Kechi Over 55 Club (except second Friday of the month) |
| Wii time | By request or when the senior center is available. |
| April 5, 6 p.m. | Monthly covered dish dinner. Bring table service and food dish to share. All drinks will be provided. Speaker is Katie Penner from Via Christi InMyHome Smart Technology to talk about wireless sensors to monitor your safety at home. Senior center advisory board. |
| April 7, 6:30 p.m. | Senior Arts and Crafts Day. Bring your favorite projects to work on and share. |
| April 8, 10 a.m. | Bring a snack lunch or something microwavable for lunch at noon. Coffee will be provided. This event will occur on the second Thursday of each month. |
| April 8, 10 a.m. | Topical tour at Botanica Gardens. Contact Rick Eberhard as reservations are needed for groups of 10 or more. (cost) |
| April 9, 9 a.m. | Breakfast and Learn. Complimentary breakfast and learning program. Speaker will be Russ Brown, financial advisor from USB Financial Service. |
| | Senior Fun Night. Bring your favorite card or board game and snacks or finger food. Drinks will be provided. To be held on the second Friday of each month. |
| April 10, 10 a.m. | Red Hat Society. Call Cheryl at 744-0738 for more information. |
| April 13, 10 a.m. | Tuesday Morning Wellness Clinic. Free blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Discuss the benefits of hospice care. Coffee and snacks provided. Fast for two hours before blood sugar check. Held on the second Tuesday each month. |
| April 14, noon | Bel Aire Lions Club catered lunch and meeting. Speaker from St. John's Military School in Salina. |
| April 15, 7 p.m. | Severe weather safety meeting. Presented by Sedgwick County Emergency Management, hosted by Bel Aire Police Department. |
| April 16, 9 a.m. | National Health Care Decision Day. For information visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionday.org . |
| April 17, 10 a.m. | Bel Aire shredder day, sponsored by Bel Aire Lions Club. West parking lot of City Hall. Bring documents and paper items to be shredded. Lions Club will also be collected old cell phones, hearing aids, used glasses and old shoes. |
| April 18, TBA | Single Seniors Dine Out. Call 558-2820 for details. |
| April 20, 9 a.m. | Birding at Botanica Gardens. Tour the grounds with birdwatchers. Call the Senior Director's office to sign up. (cost) |
| April 22, 6 p.m. | Wii Bowling Tournament, first day. Bring snacks to share. |
| April 23, 1 p.m. | Wii Bowling Tournament, second day. Contact Jackie O'Neal for details. |
| April 23, 7-10 p.m. | Senior pitch party. Bring snacks or finger foods to share. Complimentary drinks. |
| April 28, noon | Lions Club catered lunch and meeting. |
| 7 p.m. | Bunko in the Senior Room. |
| April 30, 8 a.m. | Wichita/Sedgwick County Hoarding Task Force will present a one-day seminar from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Wichita, 549 S. Rock Road. Call Stacy at 660-5230 for more information. |

The Bel Aire Lions Club is collecting eye glasses no longer being used. Drop them off in the Senior Center or water office at city hall.

Sign up for a senior cruises in 2010 offered by the Bel Aire Senior Center. Package includes airfare from the Kansas City airport):

Dec. 4 — Norwegian Cruise Line Hawaiian Cruise (10 days, 9 nights)

For reservations, price sheet and specific cruise information, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Coordinator, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov. (*passports will be required.*)

Contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Coordinator of the Bel Aire Senior Center, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or e-mail reberhard@belaireks.gov to receive the Bel Aire Senior Center news, information, special events and upcoming trips electronically or via the U.S. mail.

Notes from the Utility Department

We now have an ACH program available for our utility costumers. Fill out a form, attach a voided check and return both to the utility department. Payment of your utility bill will be taken out of your checking account on the 5th of each month. No more late fees.

If you have a new cell phone number or home phone number, please let the utility department know so we can add them to your record. These may come in handy for emergencies or if we need to get in touch with for one reason or another.

Bel Aire Senior Club

Activities are held at 4551 N. Auburn unless otherwise noted. Those 55-plus are welcome to participate. For information on programs and services for seniors, contact Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, at 744-1199. The club is self-governed and activities benefit all participating seniors.

- Monday through Friday, 8 to 9 a.m., walking at Bel Aire Rec Center.
- Mondays 10 a.m., free computer class at Park City Senior Center.
- Wednesdays 2:30 p.m., free line dancing lessons, Park City Senior Center.
- Thursday 9 to 11:30 a.m. (except second Thursday of month), Wii open play, Park City Senior Center.

AARP sponsored tax assistance is available at the Park City Senior Center through April 15. Call Vicki at 744-1199 to make an appointment.

Toenail care by Brenda, second Wednesday each month. \$25 at the center or \$35 at your home. Call Brenda 946-0722 for an appointment.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| April 6, 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast out, Copper Oven. |
| April 12, 10 a.m. | Board meeting. |
| 11:30 a.m. | Lunch out, Park City Pizza Hut (lunch buffet available). |
| April 13 | Foot care, Park City Senior Center. Call Harris Health Care 721-4828 for an appointment. |
| April 15 | Bus trip to tour Neosho Gardens Nursery in Council Grove. Includes breakfast at the Breadbasket, lunch at the Chicken House in Olpe, nursery tour and a mystery stop. Call Vickie at 744-1199 by April 6 for reservations. \$48/person includes breakfast, lunch, transportation. |
| April 18 | Blood sugar and blood pressure checks, Park City Senior Center. |
| April 21, 10 a.m. | Men's coffee at Braum's |
| 2 p.m. | Ladies' coffee/tea, Jimmie's Diner. |
| April 26, 6 p.m. | Covered dish dinner and meeting. Host: Wanda Urquhart. Program: KWCH meteorologist Ross Janssen and Millie, the weather dog. |

For services & resources for seniors, call Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, 744-1199.

CITY OF BEL AIRE CONTACTS

City Council

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Mayor Harold Smith | 744-2650 |
| Dr. Gary Breault | 744-0560 |
| Peggy O'Donnell | 744-0250 |
| Carolyn Marlier | 744-2313 |
| David Austin | 744-7188 |
| Dave Sly | 204-5574 |

City Hall

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Ty Lasher, City Administrator | 744-2451 ext. 217 |
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|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Recreation Department | 744-2700 |
| Central Park Pool | 744-7331 |
| Parks Department | 744-8609 |
| Police | |
| • Emergency | 911 |
| • Non-emergency | 744-6000 |
| Animal Control (Sedgwick County) | 660-7070 |
| Public Works | 744-2888 |
| Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.) | 761-6972 or 761-6973 |
| Utility Billing | 744-2451, ext. 132 |
| Trash (Stutzman) | 1-800-230-0383 |
| Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County) | 660-7464 |

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

March 14 — Officer Foxx arrested Patrick S. Weizelman in the 4700 block of North Road on a charge of driving with an illegal tag.

March 14 — Officer Swanson responded to vandalism in the 10200 block of East 53rd North.

March 14 — Officer Hutton responded to an animal call in the 7900 block of Caribou.

March 14 — Officer Hazelwood checked on a suspicious person in the 4300 block of North Rushwood.

March 13 — Officer Hutton assisted EMS in the 4000 block of North Parkwood.

March 13 — Officers Hazelwood and Foxx assisted Kechi Police Department in the 1300 block of East Kechi Road.

March 13 — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of trash dumping in the 6600 block of East 53rd North.

March 13 — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS in the 5200 block of East 48th North.

March 13 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 9500 block of East 45th North.

March 13 — Officers McGuire and Hutton assisted Wichita Police Department in the 4100 block of North Clarendon.

March 13 — Officers McGuire and Hutton responded to a disturbance in the 6100 block of East Edinburg.

March 13 — Officer McGuire assisted an outside agency in the 5700 block of North Oliver.

March 13 — Officer Hutton assisted EMS in the 6800 block of East 44th North.

March 12 — Sgt. Spencer assisted a motorist in the 4600 block of Greenwich.

March 12 — Officers Mavia and Hutton responded to an animal complaint at 48th North and Farmstead.

March 11 — Officer McGuire arrested Kelli B. Jones in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

March 11 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 5800 block of East 49th North.

March 11 — Officer Hazelwood arrested Michael C. Pete on a charge of DUI in the 6000 block of East 45th North.

March 11 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person at 45th North and Greenwich.

March 11 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an audible alarm in the 5800 block of East 49th North.

March 11 — Officer Hazelwood checked on a suspicious person at 39th North and Woodlawn.

March 11 — Officer Foxx assisted Kechi Police Department in the 5400 block of Oliver.

March 11 — Officer Foxx checked on a suspicious vehicle at Danbury and Gunnison.

March 11 — Officer Foxx responded to vandalism in the 4600 block of Farmstead.

March 11 — Officer Foxx checked for a suspicious person in the 4200 block of Westlake.

March 11 — Det. Pentecost assisted Kansas Highway Patrol at K-254 and Greenwich.

March 10 — Officer Brandewiede assisted EMS in the 5500 block of East Falcon.

March 10 — Officers McGuire

and Swanson responded to an audible alarm in the 7900 block of Caribou.

March 10 — Officer Swanson assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at 53rd North and Oliver.

March 10 — Sgt. Griggs responded to simple assault in the 6200 block of Perryton.

March 9 — Officer Steele received lost property in the 5900 block of East Clarendon.

March 9 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Tuan Thanh Nguyen in the 6300 block of East Quail Ridge on charges of simple assault and obstruction.

March 9 — Officers McGuire and Hutton responded to an alarm in the 6700 block of East 45th North.

March 9 — Officer Swanson cited Betty J. Alexander for driving with a suspended license in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

March 9 — Officer McGuire responded to a parking violation in the 4400 block of Stratford.

March 9 — Officer Hazelwood and Sgt. Griggs checked on a suspicious person in the 4200 block of North Westlake.

March 9 — Sgt. Griggs assisted Wichita Police Department in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn.

March 8 — Officer Steele responded to vandalism in the 5900 block of East Denise.

March 8 — Officer Steele responded to a report of harassment by telephone in the 6100 block of East Quail Ridge.

March 8 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Wichita Police Department with a motor vehicle accident at K-96 and Oliver.

March 8 — Officer Swanson assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with a welfare check in the 200 block of East Railroad.

March 8 — Officer Foxx responded to a larceny in 5700 block of East 39th North.

March 7 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Tammy S. McClellan in the 4500 block of North Oliver on a charge of driving with a revoked license.

March 7 — Officer Brandewiede assisted EMS in the 7600 block of East St. James.

March 7 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a larceny in the 6500 block of East Odessa.

March 7 — Officer Brandewiede stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 4800 block of East 48th North.

March 7 — Officers Foxx and Toomey responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 4500 block of East 45th North.

March 7 — Officer Fox arrested Brennen R. Trass in the 5600 block of East 45th North on charges of reckless driving, driving with a suspended license, resisting and obstruction.

March 7 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Chapel View.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS in the 300 block of North Hillcrest.

March 6 — Det. Pentecost arrested Bradlee B. Allen in the 3700 block of North Oliver on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin assisted Park City Police Department in the 6900 block of North Hydraulic.

March 6 — Officer Hazelwood arrested Ryan A. Harders on a charge of DUI in the 3700 block of North Rushwood.

March 6 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at 45th North and Rock Road.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin assisted a citizen in the 4100 block of North Edgemoor.

March 6 — Officer McCaslin assisted Park City Police Department at 69th North and Hydraulic.

March 5 — Det. Pentecost stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 4100 block of North Oliver.

March 5 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4800 block of North Broadway.

March 5 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4400 block of North Broadway.

March 5 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita Police Department in the 3300 block of North Rock Road.

March 5 — Officer Steele assisted Kechi Police Department at Flintside and Bairn.

March 5 — Sgt. Griggs checked on a suspicious person in the 4200 block of N. Edgemoor.

March 5 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 4500 block of North Greenwich.

March 4 — Officer Swanson responded to fraud in the 4400 block of Gunnison.

March 4 — Officer McGuire responded to an animal complaint at Clarendon and Gunnison.

March 3 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn.

March 3 — Officer McGuire assisted Wichita Police Department in the 4300 block of North Janesville.

March 3 — Officer McGuire responded to a burglary in the 4300 block of North Bellmore.

March 3 — Sgt. Spencer arrested Ilkhom Abdoulayeva and Nasiba Abdoulayeva on charges of obstruction at 7651 E. Central Park Ave.

March 3 — Officer Hazelwood responded to disorderly conduct in the 5800 block of East 45th North.

March 3 — Sgt. Griggs responded to an animal complaint in the 5800 block of East 45th North.

March 3 — Officer Hazelwood and Sgt. Griggs checked on a suspicious person in the 4300 block of North Oliver.

March 2 — Sgt. Spencer responded to fraud in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

March 2 — Officer Steele performed community policing service in the 4900 block of Woodlawn.

March 1 — Office Steele responded to an alarm in the 4500 block of North Rushwood.

March 1 — Officer Steele arrested Joseph Reyes in the 5800 block of East 40th North on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

March 1 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Wichita Police Department in the 3600 block of North Oliver.

March 1 — Officer Toomey responded to a parking violation in the 4900 block of North Farmstead.

March 1 — Officer Swanson responded to an animal complaint in the 3700 block of East Hanover.

March 1 — Officers Steele and Brandewiede checked the welfare at 45th North and Greenwich.

Feb. 28 — Officer Toomey responded to an alarm in the 4200 block of North Westlake Drive.

Feb. 28 — Officer Foxx assisted EMS in the 6100 block of Quail Ridge.

Feb. 28 — Officer Foxx assisted a citizen at 37th North and Rock Road.

Feb. 28 — Officer Foxx checked the welfare at 45th North and Greenwich.

Feb. 28 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person at Elk Creek and Caribou.

Feb. 28 — Officer Toomey responded to a burglary in-progress in the 4200 block of Westlake.

Feb. 27 — Det. Pentecost and Officer McCaslin transported a disoriented female to her home from the 5000 block of North Edgemoor.

Feb. 27 — Officer Foxx arrested James L. Silveous in the 3700 block of North Harding on a charge of DUI.

Feb. 27 — Officer McGuire checked on a suspicious person in the 7200 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 27 — Officer McGuire checked the welfare at 45th North and Rock Road.

Feb. 27 — Officer Hazelwood checked on a suspicious person in the 4200 block of North Edgemoor.

Feb. 27 — Officers Hazelwood and Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office at East 21st North and North 159th East.

Feb. 26 — Officer Foxx assisted Kechi Police Department in the 5600 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 26 — Officers Hutton and McGuire responded to an alarm in the 5600 block of East 48th Circle North.

Feb. 26 — Officer McGuire arrested Gayle J. Dinwiddle in the 4600 block of North Woodlawn on a charge of DUI.

Feb. 26 — Det. Pentecost assisted Kechi Police Department in the 5500 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 26 — Officers Hutton and McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 6000 block of Perryton.

Feb. 25 — Det. Pentecost responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court.

Feb. 25 — Det. Pentecost assisted Wichita Police Department in the 3700 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 25 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a larceny in the 4500 block of North St. James.

Feb. 25 — Officer McGuire responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 5700 block of East Flagstaff.

Feb. 25 — Officer Hazelwood reported that Wichita Police Department had arrested Jamal A. Rolfe-Murray on a Bel Aire warrant.

Feb. 25 — Officer Foxx responded to an injury accident in the 5600 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 25 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita Police Department with a hold-up alarm in the 3500 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 25 — Det. Pentecost responded to an audible alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 25 — Officer McGuire responded to a non-injury accident in the 5700 block of East Flagstaff.

Feb. 24 — Officer McGuire responded to a hold-up alarm in the

7700 block of East 37th North.

Feb. 24 — Sgt. Spencer responded to a parking complaint at Stratford and Odessa.

Feb. 24 — Det. Pentecost and Officer Brandewiede responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4300 block of Westlake.

Feb. 23 — Sgt. Spencer responded to domestic violence in the 6800 block of East 44th North.

Feb. 23 — Officers Pentecost and McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 4400 block of Westlake.

Feb. 23 — Officer Hazelwood and Sgt. Griggs responded to disorderly conduct in the 5100 block of East Ashton.

Feb. 23 — Officer Brandewiede checked on an abandoned vehicle in the 5500 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 22 — Officer Steele responded to a report of possession of marijuana in the 4000 block of North Auburn. The report was unfounded.

Feb. 22 — Officer Toomey arrested Cecil J. Zielke in the 5100 block of North Greenwich on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Feb. 22 — Officer Foxx issued traffic citations in the 7700 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 22 — Officer Hutton assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in the 4400 block of Stratford Lane.

Feb. 21 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person in the 4400 block of North Gunnison.

Feb. 21 — Officers Toomey and Hutton responded to disorderly conduct in the 4000 block of North Eagle Lake Drive.

Feb. 21 — Officer Steele assisted Kansas Highway Patrol at K-96 and Webb Road.

Feb. 21 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person at Central Park and Hampton.

Feb. 21 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 4300 block of North Mission.

Feb. 20 — Det. Pentecost and Officer Steele responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court.

Feb. 20 — Officer Steele and Det. Pentecost responded to an alarm in the 5000 block of North Lake Breeze Court.

Feb. 20 — Officer Steele and Det. Pentecost responded to an alarm in the 4300 block of North Mission.

Feb. 20 — Officer Hutton provided community policing service in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 20 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person in the 7200 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 20 — Officers Foxx and Hazelwood assisted Kansas Highway Patrol with an injury accident at K-254 and Oliver.

Feb. 19 — Sgt. Griggs and Officer Foxx arrested Ryan D. Balls on a charge of DUI in the 4500 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 19 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 5600 block of East 48th North.

Feb. 19 — Sgt. Spencer responded to a parking complaint in the 4300 block of Stratford.

Feb. 18 — Det. Pentecost assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Battin.

Feb. 18 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a report of a loud ani-

mal in the 6000 block of East Flagstaff.

Feb. 18 — Det. Pentecost responded to an alarm in the 5800 block of Denise.

Feb. 18 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Kechi Police Department at 53rd North and Oliver.

Feb. 18 — Officer Hazelwood checked the welfare of a citizen at 61st North and Greenwich.

Feb. 18 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's office with a welfare check at K-254 and Greenwich.

Feb. 17 — Officer Brandewiede stopped to assist a motorist with an inoperable vehicle in the 4000 block of North Oliver. Officer arrested the driver, Kimberley Thornton-Lee, on a charge of driving with a suspended license and on a Wichita warrant. Her husband arrived to pick up the vehicle. Officer arrested the husband, Hubert A. Thornton, on a charge of driving with a suspended license and a City of Wichita warrant.

Feb. 17 — Det. Pentecost responded to a fraud in the 3900 block North Oliver.

Feb. 17 — Officer Hazelwod reported that Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office arrested Glen Moler on a Bel Aire warrant.

Feb. 17 — Officer Swanson assisted a lost citizen in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 17 — Det. Pentecost assisted SRS in the 5500 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 17 — Officer Hazelwood checked on a suspicious person in the 4100 block of North Woodlawn.

Feb. 16 — Officer Toomey responded to an audible alarm in 6500 block of East Rodeo.

Feb. 16 — Sgt. Spencer responded to an audible alarm in the 4800 block of Homestead.

Feb. 16 — Officer Hazelwood assisted EMS in the 4300 block of North Auburn.

Feb. 16 — Officer Brandewiede assisted a stranded motorist in the 3900 block of North Oliver.

Feb. 16 — Sgt. Spencer assisted Wichita Police Department at 25th North and Hillside.

Feb. 16 — Sgt. Spencer responded to an alarm in the 4800 block of Homestead.

Feb. 16 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person at Auburn and Kenawee.

Feb. 16 — Officer Hutton responded to a disturbance in the 4000 block of North Danbury.

Feb. 15 — Officer Toomey responded to an audible alarm in the 6500 block of East Rodeo.

Feb. 15 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an animal call in the 6000 block of East Flagstaff.

Feb. 15 — Officers Steele and Brandewiede responded to an audible alarm in the 5900 block of East Denise.

Feb. 15 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 4800 block of East 45th North.

Feb. 15 — Sgt. Griggs and Officers Foxx and Toomey responded to an audible alarm in the 6500 block of East Rodeo.

Feb. 15 — Officer Foxx assisted Kechi Police Department in the 400 block of Prairie Creek.

Sunrise

Continued from Page 1

level of player as the years go by. Every year, we see an increase in talent and there's more and more people who want to come because the players we do have speak well about us."

Linsted talked about international connections he's been able to make through camps and friendships with coaches overseas. While the basketball program has benefited, Linsted is quick to point out that Sunrise has always had a strong foreign exchange program, with the academic and spiritual curriculum of the school taking priority over athletics.

Sunrise has 25 international students in this year's enrollment.

"Not everybody that comes in is an athlete," Linsted said. "We have all kinds of stud athletes offered to us, and we don't take everybody that we can. We are very, very stringent on academics. We are stringent on morals, character and behavior. They have to abide by those standards."

International players on the Buffalo basketball team meet the standard at Sunrise in the classroom, as well as through athletics. Linsted credited Akpejiori for maintaining a high grade point

average through a difficult class load and showcasing a maturity level beyond that of most high school seniors.

Akpejiori has signed to play basketball at the University of Miami, where he plans to study engineering. Currently, he's taking college calculus.

Akpejiori said the balance of basketball and school can be difficult, but is just "something he has to live with." He said he's gotten used to not having much free time.

"It just teaches you not to be lazy," he said. "I'm always doing something, either playing basketball, lifting weights or doing homework, or in class. It takes your time. It just makes you a more hard-working person."

Akpejiori had a long journey before averaging double-digit points and rebounds at Sunrise. After excelling on a club team in his native country, the 6-foot-9 Nigerian came to the United States in

2008 to compete in the Jordan Classic showcase in New York. From there, he accepted a scholarship to play in one of the premier prep basketball programs in the country at Mt. Zion Academy in North Carolina.

After he was sidelined with an ankle injury, Akpejiori lost his scholarship and re-evaluated his young career. He said he received encouragement to attend Sunrise from his friend, Ehimen Orukpe, who attended the school for his final semester.

Akpejiori said he played with Orukpe on the same club team in Nigeria. Orukpe arrived at Sunrise too late to play basketball, but was able to land a scholarship offer.

After traveling down his own difficult road, Orukpe is

set to play at Wichita State University next season. He spent two years at Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

"(Orukpe had) been here the same summer I got hurt and he introduced me to coach (Linsted)," Akpejiori said. "And we just got it started from there."

Akpejiori talked about his experience of playing with teammates from different parts of the globe at Sunrise, saying it was "just something you can't understand unless you're in it."

"It's really great, to just see people from other countries coming (here) and playing as one," he said.

Cooper also discussed the unique nature of the Sunrise basketball team.

"It was a great opportunity to see what other countries have to offer," he said.

From the Bahamas, Cooper brought athleticism and a skilled jump shot that has gotten the attention of several college programs across the country, primarily at the mid-major level.

Before coming to Sunrise, Cooper attended school for two years at Christian Life Academy in Houston. After looking for a change, Cooper found his way to Bel Aire.

Linsted said the transition to Sunrise was probably a

little easier for Cooper than it was for Akpejiori.

"It was pretty easy," Cooper said of adjusting to Sunrise. "I know all the basic rules. I fit in pretty well."

He said his goal was to fit in with the team and fill whatever role the coaches needed. Sunrise might not have another Akpejiori or Cooper next season, but Linsted said the mix of international and local talent will continue to wear the Buffalo uniform.

"We're really, really blessed with the kids that we have here," Linsted said.



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PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Sedgwick County Emergency Management will present a severe weather safety program at 7 p.m. April 15 in the Bel Aire City Building, 7651 E. Central Park Ave.

The program was developed by the National Weather Service to help educate Sedgwick County citizens about severe weather and ways to stay safe.

Presented by Cody Charvat, Training and Exercise Officer with Sedgwick County Emergency, the program is free of charge.

The program is sponsored by the Bel Aire Police Department.

†††

The University of Kansas honored two Bel Aire area student athletes by naming them to the Athletics Director’s Honor Roll for 2009.

Jeffrey Michael Bell, son of Kim and Allen Bell, and Kristin Marie Deckert, daughter of Don and Angie Deckert, were honored during halftime of the KU-Baylor University men’s basketball game Jan. 20 at Allen Fieldhouse.

To receive this honor, student athletes must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be enrolled during the spring or fall 2009 semesters.

Bell participated in men’s golf in the fall 2009 semester. He is a senior majoring in civil engineering.

Deckert was a member of the rowing team in the spring of 2009. She received a bachelor’s degree in sport science in the fall of 2009.

†††

The Bel Aire Senior Center invites everyone to the Spring Mystery Dinner on April 3.



Courtesy photo

NHS inductees

Participants in the National Honor Society induction ceremony are (front from left) speaker David Austin, Bel Aire council member; Peggy O’Donnell, NHS adviser and Bel Aire council member; Czarina Cutaran; Paris Tibbs; Mary Jane Campbell, principal; Dr. Robert Lindsted, administrator; (second row from left) Kelsey Jabara; Maureen Meyer; Brianna Barone; Rachel Lumbert; (third row from left) Nathaniel Zuercher; Sam Harpp; Kara Beck; Sarah Carlson; Bekah Noxon; (fourth row from right) Issac Stine; Logan Thelen; Ben Gerber; Erica Sims; and Lindsay Reed.

Participants will meet in the Senior Center parking lot, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, at 5 p.m. The car pool will leave at 5:15 p.m. for an unknown rural destination.

Three dinner choices include beef brisket, breaded ranch chicken breast and honey-teriyaki salmon. Dessert will be old-fashioned carrot cake with cream cheese icing served with vanilla ice cream.

Cost is \$20 per person and reservations are required to the Senior Center office.

For more information contact Rick Eberhard, senior director, at either

744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov.

†††

The Prairie Quilt Guild will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on April 13 in the Wichita Senior Center, 200 S. Walnut.

†††

The Great Plains Nature Center will hold an Outdoor Kansas for Kids Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 1. It will be held at the center, 6232 E. 29th North in Wichita.

The event is designed to encourage children and families to get outside and involved in the great outdoors. This year’s

theme, “Backyard Habitats,” is designed to help families create a suitable habitat in their own back yard.

The event is free and lunch will be available to purchase.

Call Seth Gardner or Rebecca Matrow at 683-5499, extention 105, or e-mail kdwp@gpnc.org for more information.

†††

The Sedgwick County Extension Office will host a series of workshops about Alzheimer’s disease. They will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays from April 12 to May 17 at 7001 W. 21st North.

Participants will receive information on coping with the disease, recognizing the stages of the disease, understanding how to communicate with the patient and activities to help engage and help with behavior management. They will also be provided with a safe, friendly environment to seek support, understanding and to find their voice in a group setting.

For information contact Sarah Taylor at 660-0100, extension 0117, or Vickie Penick at 773-7324, extension 12.

†††

An induction ceremony was held Feb. 24 at Sunrise Christian Academy for 16 of the school’s new National Honor Society members. The 16 inductees join 20 previous members, giving Sunrise 36 NHS students. Bel Aire City Council member David Austin was the guest speaker at the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Community Bible Church.

Peggy O’Donnell, also on the Bel Aire city council, is the NHS adviser at Sunrise.

DEATHS

GEORGIA COLE

Georgia A. (Hunter) Cole, 81, mother and mother-in-law of Curtis and Suzanne Cole of Bel Aire, died March 14, 2010. She was a retired Southwestern Bell information operator. Service was March 22 at Bethel Life Center.

She was a member of Telephone Pioneers and Bethel Life Center.

She was preceded in death by husband Charles Cole, parents Frank and Ola (Keeler) Hunter, brother Joe Hunter and sister Goldie Annis.

Other survivors include sons and daughter-in-law Bill and Roberta Cole of Cheney and George Cole of Wichita; brothers and sisters-in-law John and Pat Hunter of Wichita, Marion and Joann Hunter of Florida, and Jimmy and Nancy Hunter of Wichita; sisters and brothers-in-law Gloria and John Reiz of Wichita, Kay and Don Roberts of Wichita, Shirley and Roy Vanderbilt of Missouri, and Marilyn and Rick Crown of Wichita; sister-in-law Wil-ladean Hunter of Wichita; seven grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions to either Bethel Life Center or Telephone Pioneers.

Resthaven Mortuary had charge.

BEVERLY O'DONNELL

Beverly Mae O’Donnell, 70, mother and mother-in-law of Dr. Michael and Peggy O’Donnell of Bel Aire, died March 18, 2010. Service was March 23 at Grace Baptist Church, Wichita.

She was born in Fortescue, Mo., on June 19, 1939, to

Basil and Marjorie Keck. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant son Dominick and sister Jane Kirkhart.

Other survivors include her husband of 53 years Mickey; daughter Shanon O’Donnell of Wichita, son and daughter-in-law Nick and Liz O’Donnell of Granbury, Texas; grandchildren Stephanie Albritton and spouse Andrew, Michael O’Donnell, Tyler O’Donnell, Brianne Moore, Shawn Moore, Emma Moore, Riley O’Donnell, and Tatum O’Donnell; and sisters Carolyn Schueler of Phoenix, Trudy Murphree of Corpus Christi, Texas, Linda Gilley of Charlotte, N.C., and Jere Buchanan of Derby

Memorial with Grace Baptist Church Children’s Ministry.

Broadway Mortuary had charge.

REGAN WHEELER

Regan Gayle Wheeler, 13, of Kechi, died March 19, 2010. She was a student at Alison Middle School. Memorial service was March 25 at Central Christian Church

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Gail and Mary Ann Thomas.

Survivors include her parents, Richard and Connie Wheeler and sister Madison Wheeler, all of Kechi; grandparents Scott and Ronna Wheeler and Cathy Wilson; aunts and uncles Krista and Rex Jackson, Jeff and Marilyn Thomas, and Jan Thomas and Michelle Vining. Memorial with the Kansas Humane Society.

Broadway Mortuary had charge.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday services include worship at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday school for both children and adults at 9:30.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside, across from Heights High School, at 53rd North and Hillside.

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the church office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord’s Day are Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school Web site is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is worship service and breaking of the bread, with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30.

Wednesday evening, prayer and Bible study is at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church

meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hill-side) at 10 a.m. every Sunday, with its Worship Experience in the school cafeteria starting at 10:30.

Every Sunday at Crossroads includes a Moonwalk for kids, Crossroads Cafe and Coffee bar, relevant and engaging messages, cutting-edge music with a live band and a dynamic Crossroads Kids program.

Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita. Adult and children’s Sunday school classes begin at 9:15 a.m. with worship service at 10:30. Michael Poage is the pastor. For more information, please call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountucc.com.

Kechi United Methodist Church

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221.

Sunday worship services are at 9:03 and 11 a.m., with

Sunday school at 10.

Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:30 p.m. April 1.

Good Friday service will be at 7:30 p.m. April 2.

The youth will lead a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at 7:30 a.m. United Methodist Women will provide a brunch at 8:15, followed by regular Sunday services.

United Methodist Women will hold their annual Spring Tea in April 11 in the Fellowship Hall.

Yoga meets at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at Kechi City Hall.

The church’s phone number is 744-1221. It is still collecting 18-ounce jars of peanut butter, diapers and tuna fish for the United Methodist Open Door.

Park City Christian Church

Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday school

at 10. The church is located at 2230 E. 61st North. Call 744-0493 or 744-0133. The church accepts food donations for Union Rescue Mission.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children’s church are at 10:45. The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City. Wednesday Bible study for adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m.

Pine Valley Christian Church

Located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

University United Methodist Church

Located across from the

WSU campus at 21st & Yale. Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m. traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m. E-mail uumc2220@uumc.net; phone 686-6765. Rev. Phil Shull is the pastor.

Send your church’s upcoming events and service times to legals@arkvalleynews.com or call 755-0821.



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Police seek funding for TASERS

By Matt Heilman

During an incident with a non-cooperative drunken motorcyclist, a Bel Aire police officer injured his knee. The officer had to have knee surgery, which resulted in a 10-week layoff.

“If we would have had TASERS at that time, then that would have been an ideal situation to use TASERS where we wouldn’t have had to have the hands-on confrontation,” Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily said. “Thereby, the officer wouldn’t have been injured, and we would have been a lot farther ahead. We wouldn’t have lost the use of the officer and the officer wouldn’t have had to go through all the nonsense

he went through with surgery and all that stuff.”

Daily said that physical altercations don’t happen every day in Bel Aire, but they do occur more than people realize. Daily became the police chief in 2006.

“We’ve had several incidents over my time here in Bel Aire where TASERS would have been advantageous to the circumstances, and the officers wouldn’t have had to become physically involved with the suspects that they were dealing with,” Daily said.

Bel Aire officers carry expandable batons and mace to protect themselves from aggression, but the Bel Aire department is the only one in the area that Daily is aware

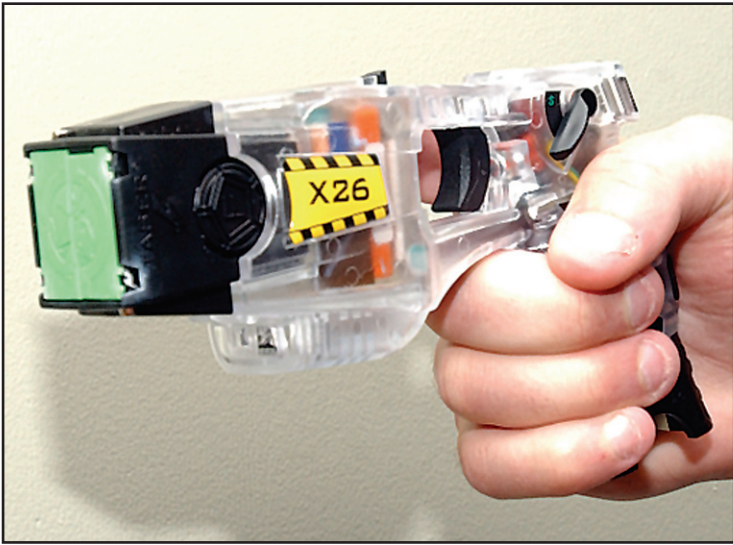
of that doesn’t have TASERS.

The police departments in Valley Center, Park City and Kechi have them. Daily said he didn’t know why Bel Aire hasn’t been able to obtain them.

Daily said the Bel Aire City Council agrees that TASERS would benefit officers, but a tight budget hasn’t allowed funding from the city.

The cost for one unit, consisting of the TASER, a holster and training accessories needed for certification is \$1,095. Bel Aire has 12 full-time police officers, two part-time officers and six reserves.

It would cost slightly more than \$13,000 to equip



File photo

The Bel Aire Police Department wants to raise enough money to purchase TASERS for officers.

every full-time officer with a TASER. Daily said he’d be satisfied if the department could acquire at least six, but indicated he’d prefer the full compliment of 12 TASERS.

Daily said he’s been working on fundraising efforts to acquire TASERS.

He began by sending a letter to all of the Bel Aire businesses the police department could think of. In the letter,

Daily discussed the benefit of TASERS for law enforcement officers and asked for donations.

When he didn’t get the response he’d hoped for, he addressed the letter to the chamber of commerce, hoping to have better luck getting in touch with businesses.

Daily said his next step is to “put a touch on all the people in the community.”

In a letter to residents, Daily says, “Any donation you can provide will be greatly appreciated.”

He begins the letter by acknowledging the difficult economy and introducing the need.

“During these difficult economic times, it is tough for all of us to make ends meet,” Daily says in the letter. “This is true for everyone, including our local government. The police department has not been able to secure funds to buy equipment for our officers that will allow them to better protect themselves against attacks from persons wishing to resist lawful arrest. That equipment is TASERS.”

Donations can be mailed to the Bel Aire Police Department, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS 67226. Bel Aire police clerk Cynthia Rankin said officers would also be available to pick up donations from residences.

For more information about donations or the fundraising efforts, call the Bel Aire Police Department at 744-6000.

Census Bureau says it’s time to be counted

By Matt Heilman

The U.S. Census Bureau has started counting. The bureau mailed out questionnaires to every residence in the United States in March.

The once-every-10-year process is a population count used to allocate federal money to each state, “where they determine if we need more hospitals, schools, roads, all that good stuff,” said Census assistant recruiter Sarah Shaffer of Valley Center.

The questionnaire that has shown up in mailboxes is supposed to determine the country’s population as of April 1, which is Census Day.

After a grace period of a few weeks, citizens who fail to return the questionnaire can expect a knock on their door sometime in May, June or July.

This is where a \$12.50 per-hour part-time job opportunity comes in. The eight-week appointments are for census takers, the ones who make home visits to conduct head counts. Vehicle mileage is reimbursed for census takers.

“In the past, I think (the Census Bureau) has had to send out quite a few takers,” Shaffer said. “And obviously, we’re still hiring, so they must be projecting that they’ll still need takers this time

around.”

Shaffer said about 2,500 census takers are signed up for Sedgwick and surrounding counties, with another 2,500 needed.

“I know there’s a lot of people wanting some part-time work, so it’s perfect,” Shaffer said of being a census taker. “You make your own schedule, you go when you can go. It’s very convenient.”

Census takers must be at least 18 years old.

For more information on employment with the Census Bureau, visit www.2010censusjobs.gov, or call the bureau’s toll-free jobs line at (866) 861-2010.

City

Continued from Page 1

“If we get past the May 1 payment, we will have until Aug. 20 to figure out what our solutions will be for this cash flow problem,” Smith said.

Smith said that options have been presented, but the best method to go about handling the debt has yet to be defined.

“We have identified many options and we continue to study each one,” Smith said.

“These options have the ability to affect the amount of real estate tax, the level of city services, the ability of the city to grow, and even in our water rates. The next five months will be a difficult time for all of us and hard decisions will need to be made.”

Also at the March 16 meeting, the council:

- Agreed to establish March 27 as the Community Easter Egg Hunt.
- Approved a fireworks stand permit on Lot 2 of the Bel Aire Second Addition by Sunrise Christian Academy and Adventure Funds.
- Approved an appropriations ordinance for \$321,409.31, withhold-

ing March prisoner holding fees for Sedgwick County in the amount of \$1,747.24.

- Approved the USD 259 additional final plat for the K-8 school on the southeast corner of Woodlawn at 53rd. The plat is a layout of where the school and associated structures will be. The actual design with more specifics has yet to be finalized.
- Approved the USD 259 Third Addition final plat for the new high school, which will be located on the northeast corner of Rock Road and 53rd North.
- Approved the change order with Unruh Excavating for Elk Creek in the amount of \$63,658 for additional sod.

Former WSU star gets probation

Howard turns self in on DUI charge

By Matt Heilman

Former Wichita State basketball standout Jamar Howard stood in front of a judge in Bel Aire Municipal Court March 3 after turning himself in to Bel Aire authorities Jan. 6.

Howard was on Bel Aire’s Most Wanted list for a 2005 arrest on charges of possession of marijuana, DUI,

speeding, refusal to take a preliminary breath test, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle and failure to appear in court.

In more than four years as a fugitive, Howard was reported to have played basketball in the American Basketball Association, Continental Basketball Association and the United States Basketball League. He also briefly played on a couple professional teams in Germany.

In his March 3 court appearance, Howard was ordered to complete his probation and pay the fines associated with the arrest, according to Bel Aire Municipal Court Clerk Kellie Baker.

Howard will have to report to a probation officer once a month. When he completes probation and pays the fines, the case will be completed. He won’t have to serve jail time as long as he follows the court order.



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